M E M O R A N D U M

January 31, 1967

TO: JIM GARRISON

FROM: DOUGLAS WARD

RE: INTERVIEW OF MRS. LOUISE DECKER EMPLOYED BY KELLY GIRL SERVICES, 7809 AIRLINE HIGHWAY, TELEPHONE NO. 721-7681

During the interview with Mrs. Decker she told Det. Ward that she had met Guy Banister in 1959 through a friend of hers by the name of Mrs. Hugh Ward. Mrs. Decker stated that Guy Banister never gave her any indication that he was anything but a gentleman.

Mrs. Decker stated that she was out of work during the month of October, 1961, and that she had run into Mrs. Ward who told her that Guy Banister was looking for a secretary. Mrs. Decker said she contacted Guy Banister at his office and he told her he was looking for a secretary, and if she wanted the job to come in and see him. Mrs. Decker started working for Guy Banister the third week in October, 1961, and worked for him through January, 1962.

Mrs. Decker told Det. Ward that her job consisted mostly of cutting clippings from newspapers and magazines which contained articles about racial problems throughout the country and articles about Communism. Banister was a fanatic on these two subjects.

Mrs. Decker also stated that she had once seen some of Banister's files in which the names of numerous political persons and influential persons names were mentioned. Mrs. Decker further stated that she thought if these files fell into the wrong hands they could be used to blackmail some of these persons mentioned in them.

When asked about some of the people who came in to see Banister (Cubans as well as Americans) she mentioned the following names:

1. Jack Martin
2. Dave Ferrie
3. Joe M. Mangu
4. Joe Carter
5. Warren Gendas
6. Carlos Quiroga (possibly Quiroga)
7. Sergio Arcacha Smith
8. Bill Newtsome
9. Dugans Locking
10. Mary Ferrier
11. Delphine Roberts

When questioned about the aforementioned list of persons, Mrs. Decker gave the following account:

(1) Jack Martin - a friend of Guy Banister as well as a business associate. Mrs. Decker's feelings were that Martin was a would-be investigator, however, Banister had warned her that Martin was the type of man to be afraid of. Mrs. Decker stated that she had seen Martin the morning she gave this statement and the type of looks she got from him were frightening. On November 23, 1963, Martin pulled a gun on Banister in his (Banister's) office and threatened to kill him over some words about the assassination of President Kennedy. Mrs. Decker stated that she had been told about the above mentioned incident a couple of weeks after it happened by Vernon Gerdes.

(2) Dave Ferrie - had come into the office (Banister's office) with Jack Martin and two Cubans. Assisted Cubans in organization. Dave Ferrie was a sympathizer with the Cubans and their cause. Ferrie was alleged to have helped them compaign for funds etc.

(3) Joe Newbrough - was also a friend as well as business associate of Banisters and was in the office often. Little else known about him.

(4) Joe Oster - a business associate who Mrs. Decker felt was trying to take over Banister's business. Oster was also to have worked with Banister from time to time, and had money invested in Banister's business. This was her belief.

(5) Vernon Gerdes - Mrs. Decker stated was a friend and business associate of Banisters and that she felt he would be a good man to talk to about Banister's files as he would know more than anyone else. Could not give many details.

(6) Carlos Quivero (possibly Quiroga)
(7) Sergio Arcacha Smith - Were the two Cubans who had come in with Ferrie. Mrs. Decker did not know for sure whether or not Banister had any connection with the Cubans or any of their organizations. Mrs. Decker saw the two persons mentioned above on numerous occasions in the office but did not have an occasion to find out any more about them.

(8) Bill Nietschke - ex FBI agent - retired, came to New Orleans in December, 1961, from Reno, Nevada, as a partner in the business with Banister. Nietschke did not like Mrs. Decker, he felt she had told Banister that he was trying to take over the business.

(9) Eugene Loeling - obviously a con-man who had assumed the rank of colonel and formed the Louisiana Private Patrol. Loeling was in the office often and was one of Banister's closer friends.

(10) Mary Banister - ex-wife of Guy Banister. Little known about her other than she was a straight forward sometimes over-bearing person.

(11) Delphine Roberts - Delphine was alleged to be very intimate with Banister as well as being a firm backer of his in his work. Mrs. Roberts was in and out of the office on many occasions. Note: Memo dated December 29 from Ward mentiones Delphine Roberts as the person having found Banister dead in his apartment and having removed some material from his apartment at that time. Also, several days later, she returned and removed more material. Delphine also visited Banister in his apartment on many occasions.

Mrs. Decker further stated that Banister had been far behind in the payment of his rent for the office and that soon after his death the landlord of the building had seized some of his furnishings and material as payment of the deliquent account. (The office building was located at 531 Lafayette Street). Mrs. Decker further stated that Banister never discussed business with her.

Mrs. Decker said that if she could think of anything that might be of any importance to us, she would call, or should we want to ask her any more questions, she would be more than glad to answer any and all questions and offered her assistance in any way possible.